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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/801,485	03/16/2004	Joachim Ruch	RUCH	1205
20151	7590	10/24/2005	EXAMINER	
HENRY M FEIEREISEN, LLC 350 FIFTH AVENUE SUITE 4714 NEW YORK, NY 10118			SORKIN, DAVID L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1723	

DATE MAILED: 10/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/801,485

Applicant(s)

RUCH ET AL.

Examiner

David L. Sorkin

Art Unit

1723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 and 23-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07/02/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-21 and 23-30, drawn to a comb element and combinations therewith, classified in class 366, subclass 81.
- II. Claim 22, drawn to mixing fibers with plastic, classified in class 366, subclass 348.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I and II are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case the apparatus could be used to process materials other than fibers and plastic melt. For example, it could be used for mixing fibers with concrete instead of with plastic melt. Also, it could be used for kneading pizza dough.

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Art Unit: 1723

5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
6. During a telephone conversation with Henry M. Feiereisen on 18 October 2005 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-21 and 23-30. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claim 22 is withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.
7. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1, 5-8, 10-21, 23 and 27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wobbe et al. (US 5,318,358). Wobbe ('358) discloses a comb element (5) with structural elements set back from an involute surface (see Figs. 2 and 4). Regarding claim 5, the elements have a base body constructed to resemble the shape

Art Unit: 1723

of a truncated pyramid or block shape (see Figs. 2 and 4). Regarding claim 6, the elements have a base body defined by a bottom and a pointed end, said body having a cross section which decreases from the bottom face to the pointed end (see Fig. 2).

Regarding claim 7, the base body is configured of substantially conical shape (see Figs. 2 and 4). Regarding claim 8, the surface structure elements are arranged at a surface density such as to realize at least 10^8 looping possibilities (see Fig. 4). Regarding claim 10, the surface elements are configured to maintain a minimum distance in relation to the surface elements of an interacting further said comb element to avoid any cutting action between the comb element and the further comb element (see Fig. 4).

Regarding claim 11, Wobbe ('358) discloses two closely intermeshing screws (S) rotating in the same direction (see col. 3, lines 28-32; Fig. 2) for advancing plastic melt in a transport direction, each of the screws supporting at least one comb element (5) defining an involute surface and comprising on its involute surface a plurality of surface structure elements which are set back from the involute surface (see Figs. 2 and 4).

Regarding claim 12, the comb element is arranged downstream of a feed device (13) (see Fig. 1). Regarding claims 13-18, "inclusion of material or article worked upon by a structure being claimed, does not impart patentability to the claims" *In re Otto* 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963). "Expressions relating the apparatus to contents thereof during an intended operation are of no significance in determining patentability of the apparatus claim." *Ex parte Thibault*, 164 USPQ 666, 667 (Bd. App. 1969). Also, "the manner or method in which such machine is to be utilized is not germane to the issue of patentability of the machine itself" *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967).

Art Unit: 1723

Regarding claim 19, each screw includes a plurality of comb elements arranged behind each other (see Fig. 4). Regarding claim 20, the comb elements are arranged of the screw in axial spaced-apart relationship (see Fig. 4). Regarding claim 21, each of the screws supports a screw element (see Fig. 1). Regarding claim 23, Wobbe ('358) discloses a screw (S) comprising a screw body; and at least one comb element (5) disposed one the screw body and defining an involute surface, said comb element comprising on its involute surface a plurality of surface structure elements which are set back from the involute surface (see Figs. 2 and 4). Regarding claim 27, the elements have a base body constructed to resemble the shape of a truncated pyramid or block shape (see Figs. 2 and 4). Regarding claim 28, the elements have a base body defined by a bottom and a pointed end, said body having a cross section which decreases from the bottom face to the pointed end (see Fig. 2). Regarding claim 29, the base body is configured of substantially conical shape (see Figs. 2 and 4). Regarding claim 30, the surface structure elements are arranged at a surface density such as to realize at least 10^8 looping possibilities (see Fig. 4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 2-4, 9 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wobbe et al. (US 5,318,358). The apparatus of Wobbe ('358) was

Art Unit: 1723

discussed above. Regarding claims 2 and 24, Wobbe ('358) further discloses that the surface structure elements extend inwardly from the involute surface in a perpendicular relationship to a tangential direction (see Fig. 2) and regarding claim 9, the comb element and further comb element are on parallel screws (see Fig. 4). The specific sizes of claims 2-4, 9 and 24-26 are not disclosed. *In re Rose* 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955) and *Gardner v. TEC System, Inc.* 220 USPQ 777 (Fed. Cir. 1984) are relied upon regarding the obviousness of selecting a size.

Conclusion


12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David L. Sorkin whose telephone number is 571-272-1148. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 -5:30 Mon.-Fri..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda L. Walker can be reached on 571-272-1151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1723

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


David L. Sorkin
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1723

DLS